

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A switch fabric implemented on a chip includes an array of cells and an I/O interface in communication with the array of cells for permitting exchange of data packets between the array of cells and components external to the array of cells. Each cell communicates with at least one other cell of the array, permitting an exchange of data packets between the cells of the array and an exchange of control information between the cells of the array. Each cell is operative to control transmission of data packets to other cells of the array at least in part on a basis of the control information. The control information is thus used to regulate the flow of data packets between cells.

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